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Dear diary,
Been a while, huh? Sorry I haven't written. To tell you the truth, things have been kind of crazy.
Well...
...to tell you the truth, things have been very crazy. Like the whole universe is coming to an end crazy.

Hmm, where to start?
Okay, this is what I know. There's our universe, right? And then there's this other one, kind of like ours, but different. Yeah, major revelation, right?
The reason I know this now is because the two universes started merging, people and buildings and everything crossing from one to the other.
Naturally, everybody freaks...
...especially the heroes, 'cause they're trying to keep total chaos from breaking out.
The thing is, nobody can figure out what's going on, not even big dual brains like Ms. Frost or Professor Xavier.
I mean, everybody wants to know why it's happening.

Maybe we shouldn't even ask. I'm still not sure I understand what I do know, but here goes.
There are these two, um, gods or entities or whatever you want to call them... one in each universe. Brothers, I guess. They're, like, the embodiment of everything in their universe.
A little tough to grasp, I know anyway, they both forgot the other one existed. But they noticed each other because of a few cosmic sort of events.
Now they've decided to find out whose universe is better, so they picked champions — including your favorite pyrokinetic mutant mall rat here — to settle it.
This is the deal: once we're summoned, we have to fight somebody from the other universe until one of us goes down for the count.
And it's not like we have a choice, because the losing universe...
Well, here's the scary part... when it's all over, only one universe is going to survive!
Like I need that kind of pressure!

It's already started. Thor defeated this guy called Captain Marvel...

...but Namor lost to Aquaman...

...and Quicksilver couldn't outrun the Flash. So right now we're losing two-to-one.

It's weird — creepy weird, I mean — how people are reacting, treating this like it's the Super Bowl or something.

BIBBO'S TOTE BOARD

THOR CAPTAIN MARVEL
AQ PEF. NAMOR
FLA QUICKSILVER
SUP 3-5 OVER HUL
BAT CAIN A
CA
BOY.
RM
EVEN

Maybe it's easier to do that than really think about the consequences. Sort of whistling in the dark.

But you want to know the worst thing? I totally feel the right guy... I mean Mr. Right...

...and I've gotta fight him for the fate of two universes. Does that stink or what?

JUBILEE?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU. THIS PLACE IS BIGGER THAN I THOUGHT.
OH...
...ROBIN. HI.
YEAH, IT'S LIKE THAT WITH FULLY INTERACTIVE BIO-SPHERES. DANGER GROTTOS FOR SHORT.
THIS WAITING'S DRIVING ME NUTS. I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WANTED TO GO FOR A WALK.
YEAH, SOUNDS GREAT.
I WAS JUST CATCHING UP ON MY DIARY. DIDN'T KNOW WHEN ...OR IF... I'D GET THE CHANCE AGAIN.
GIVE ME A MINUTE TO FINISH UP.
Gotta go now, diary...
READY?
YOU BET!
...put on my brave face and my famous attitude.
Otherwise, everybody might see how scared I really am.
Diary
Hope this isn't the end, diary. But if it is... well, it's been fun.
Diary
Love, Jubilee.

THIS...
...THIS IS IT. I GUESS IT'S TIME.
A BALLOON WAREHOUSE? WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
I WOULD'VE RATHER STAYED IN THE DANGER GROTTO. NOT QUITE SO SPOOKY IN THERE.
UM, I'D WISH YOU LUCK AND ALL, BUT...
...YOU KNOW.
YEAH...
...I KNOW.
OKAY.
SO WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS.
RIGHT...
...LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
LET'S!

I ALMOST FEEL LIKE THIS ISN'T FAIR. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS.
WHO SAYS I NEED 'EM?
COME ON. WHERE'D YOU GO?
I KNOW I CAN WIN THIS THING...
...IF I CAN JUST FIND HIM.
THERE YOU ARE!

HEY!
THAT WAS YOUR CAPE! YOU TRICKED ME!
I HAD A HECK OF A TEACHER.
BUT...
...BUT I DIDN'T EVEN...
...OH, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
YOU OKAY? NOT TOO TIGHT, IS IT?
NO, IT'S JUST... I LOST. YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO LAND A PUNCH. THAT'S SO LAME.
GOD, NO! I WAS NEVER PLANNING TO HIT YOU.
YOU WEREN'T? THAT'S... SWEET.
UM, YOU ARE PLANNING ON UNTYING ME THOUGH, RIGHT, HANDSOME?
SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...

DEEP SPACE.
MAN, I DON'T WANT TO BE DOING THIS.
NOR IS IT TO MY LIKING, GREEN LANTERN...
...BUT THIS COMBAT BETWEEN US IS NECESSARY.
IN THE PAST, YOU AND I HAVE PRESERVED OUR TWO UNIVERSES BY ACTING TOGETHER.
NOW WE ATTEMPT TO SAVE AT LEAST ONE BY BATTLING EACH OTHER.
UFF!
THE COSMIC BEINGS WHO COMMAND US ARE THE MOST POWERFUL ENTITIES I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.
EVEN MY FORMER MASTER GALACTUS PALES BEFORE THEM!
I'M NOT SAYING WE HAVE A CHOICE, SURFER...

...I'M JUST SAYING I DON'T LIKE IT.
BUT I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO WIN.
AS MUST I.
THE VICTORY IS MINE...
...YET NEVER HAVE I MORE REGRETTED AN OPPONENT'S DEFEAT.

GOTHAM.
SHRIIP!
FIRST BLOOD TO YOU, CATWOMAN.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M DOING HERE. NOBODY EVER ACCUSED ME OF BEING A HERO...
...SO WHY WAS I PICKED AS A CHAMPION?
AND FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING SO, BUT YOU DON'T STRIKE ME AS THE HERO TYPE EITHER, ELEKTRA... NOT CARRYING AROUND BLADES LIKE THOSE.
I'VE ALWAYS HAD A THING FOR WHIPS, MYSELF SUCH A WIDE RANGE OF USES, IF YOU KNOW WH--
SNAP!

--HHF?!
STRONG LITTLE THING, AREN'T YOU?
I'M AN ASSASSIN. I KILL MY OPPONENTS GLADLY.
YEAH, WELL, DON'T GO TO ANY EXTRA TROUBLE ON MY ACCOUNT.
BUT OUR COMBAT WAS NOT OF MY CHOOSING. I WON'T SLAY YOU MERELY TO APPEASE THE BEINGS WHO FORCE THIS BATTLE...
...BUT I WILL WIN.

METROPOLIS.

GREAT STORY, LOIS...

DAILY PL

ALL TIED UP!
CHAMPIONS DEADLOCKED 3-3

...NO WONDER YOU'VE GOT A PULITZER.

THANKS, PETER.

BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AROUND TO WRITE IT IF YOU HADN'T SAVED ME FROM THE SCARECROWS.

JUST ONE OF THE SERVICES OF YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD... UM, PHOTO-JOURNALIST.

LISTEN, I'VE REALLY ENJOYED WORKING WITH YOU, AND I WAS THINKING... WONDERING, REALLY... IF YOU'D WANT TO SEE A MOVIE WITH ME, MAYBE GET SOME DINNER.

I THOUGHT A NICE, NORMAL DATE WOULD BE A LITTLE SANITY IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS CRAZY STUFF GOING ON.

WELL, THAT'S... UH, I'M FLATTERED, PETER, REALLY, BUT...

...I'M ENGAGED.

TO ME.

OH

OH, MAN, I DIDN'T KNOW. I'M SORRY. JEEZ, YOU COULD SQUASH ME LIKE A BUG, CLARK.

NO HARM DONE, PETER.

I'LL JUST BE GOING NOW. TO THE DARK ROOM.

TO ROLL SOME FILM. OR DEVELOP SOME.

OR DIE OF EMBARRASSMENT.

DARK ROO

SMOOTH.
YEAH, THAT WAS JUST GREAT. MY WHOLE UNIVERSE IS DEPENDING ON MR. BIG-SHOT SPIDER-MAN TO SAVE IT...
...AND I'M TOO BUSY MAKING A JERK OUT OF...
...MYSELF?
BOY, HE DISAPPEARED FAST ONCE YOU SHOWED UP.
PETER'S A NICE KID, LOIS. HE JUST DIDN'T KNOW YOU AND I--
WORD JUST CAME IN! THE HULK AND SOME FREAK NAMED METALLO ARE BASHING EACH OTHER AROUND DOWNTOWN!
INNOCENT LIVES AT RISK! PROPERTY DAMAGE! THE MAKINGS OF A GREAT STORY!
I WANT YOU TWO ON IT AS--
HEY, WHERE'D KENT GO?
UM, DON'T WORRY, JONAH...
"... I'M SURE HE'S ON THE JOB ALREADY!"

THE ALLEY.
WAIT.
WAIT A MINUTE. ALL THIS STUFF YOU'RE TELLING ME? I MEAN...
...COME ON.
TWO WHOLE UNIVERSES EMBODIED IN THESE COSMIC... BROTHERS, OR WHATEVER YOU WANNA CALL THEM.
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF SHARP FROM THE TWO OF THEM? THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN A WANDERER ALL MY LIFE?
NO!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. I CAN'T.
I'M NOTHING SPECIAL, AND I DON'T WANT TO BE.
YOU'RE JUST SOME CRAZY HOMELESS GUY, THAT'S ALL.
AM I?
AND THAT'S JUST A CARDBOARD BOX? IT'S ALL TRUE...
...AND IN YOUR HEART, YOU KNOW IT. YOU FEEL IT.
THIS PLACE IS THE CRUX OF EVERYTHING, AND YOU ARE THE KEY. IF ANYTHING IS TO BE PRESERVED...
...YOU MUST BE THE ONE TO DO IT, AXEL ASHER! THE ANSWER LIES WITHIN YOU!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU...?

...WHOA.
WHAT'D YOU DO TO ME?!
UNLEASHED WHAT'S INSIDE OF YOU. EACH OF US CHOOSES THE GUISE BEST SUITED TO WHO WE ARE. THIS IS MINE; THAT'S YOURS.
I TOLD YOU I'M A SHARD OF THE BROTHERS, JUST LIKE YOU. I'VE BEEN THE KEEPER OF THE GATEWAY BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSES.
YOU SEE IT AS A BOX BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I WANT IT TO BE. IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR YOU...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE NEXT IN THE LONG SUCCESSION OF KEEPERS. MY TIME IS ALMOST UP. YOU HAVE TO TAKE UP THE MANTLE...
...YOU HAVE TO BECOME THE ACCESS.
EVERYTHING'S BEEN LEADING TO THIS MOMENT. YOUR WATCH IS MORE CRUCIAL THAN ANY THAT HAVE COME BEFORE.
IT FALLS TO YOU TO PRESERVE THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSES.
YEAH, BUT...
...HOW DO I DO THAT?

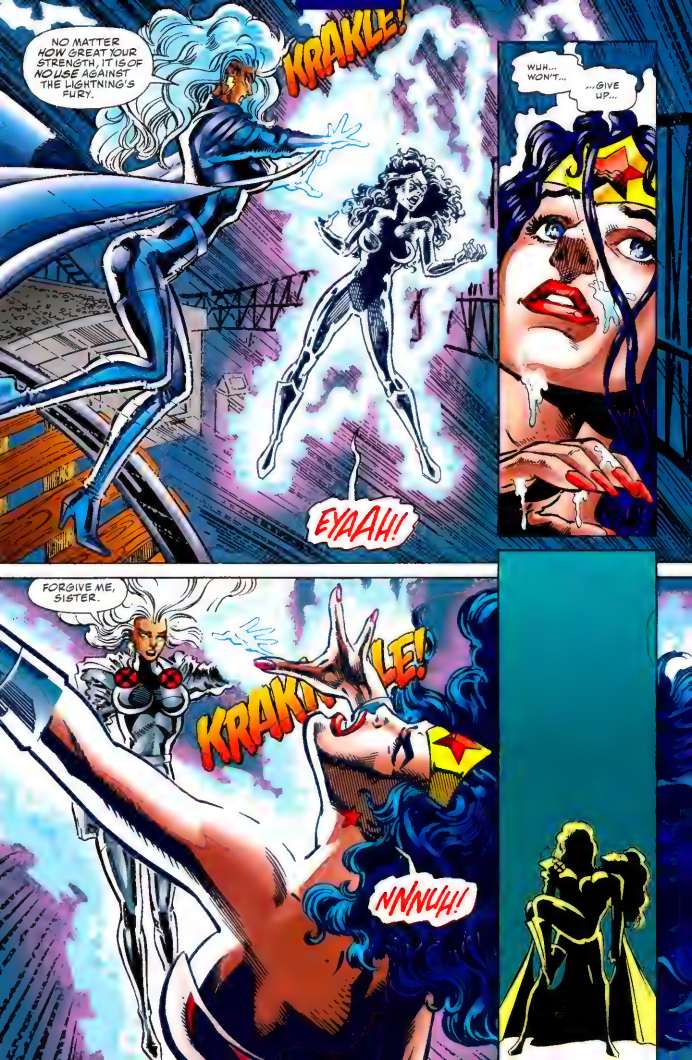
FAR, FAR AWAY...
BASTICH!
SAYS YOU.

YA CALL YERSELF WOLVERINE?
COMIN' INTA ONE O' MY HANGOUTS FER THIS BRAWL IS YER LAST MISTAKE!
--AAGH!
CHUK!
THIS DUMP? I AIN'T HERE BY CHOICE, LOBO!
PROBABLY CAN'T EVEN GET A DECENT BREW IN--
ANYBODY MENTION TO YOU I'M A MUTANT? GOT THIS HEALING FACTOR THAT LETS ME TAKE A LOT OF PUNISHMENT...
SHLLUK!
...ALMOST AS MUCH AS I DISH OUT!

WOLVERINE!
THESE CLAWS AIN'T FOR SHOW!
I'LL BE PICKIN' MY TEETH WITH 'EM WHEN I'M DONE WITH YA, YA FRAGGIN' MIDGET!
YER MESSIN' WITH THE MAIN MAN!
SQUASH YA!
GUT YA!

OUTSIDE FAWCETT CITY...
"WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF..."
THOR
MERELY GRASPING THE HAMMER TRANSFORMED ME. THE POWER COURSES THROUGH ME, MORE POWER THAN I EVER HAD AS WONDER WOMAN...
...THE POWER OF A GOD.
IF I MUST FIGHT YOU IN THIS GUISE...
WHO?
...THEN SO BE IT. BUT I WARN YOU... I TOO, HAVE BEEN CALLED A GODDESS, AND THE LIGHTNING IS AT MY COMMAND, AS WELL.
I AM STORM, OF THE X-MEN.
I WAS TRANSPORTED HERE. WE ARE MEANT TO BATTLE, YOU AND I.
I FEAR YOU'VE NO HOPE OF WINNING SUCH A CONTEST WHILE I WIELD THIS WEAPON.
PERHAPS.
BUT I WILL NOT YIELD.
I COULD GAIN AN EASY VICTORY. BUT SUCH A BATTLE...
...WOULD NOT BE FAIR.

WE FACE ONE ANOTHER AS WAS INTENDED. I MAY HAVE GIVEN UP AN ADVANTAGE...
...BUT THE VICTORY'S STILL GOING TO BE MINE.
NOT WHILE MY MUTANT ABILITIES ALLOW ME TO CONTROL THE ELEMENTS THEMSELVES. THE SKIES HEED ME!
AT MY COMMAND, THE WIND BLOWS ITSELF INTO A GALE! THE RAIN BECOMES A TORRENT!
...TO BEST AN AMAZON CHAMPION WITH THE STRENGTH OF THE GREEK GODS!
YOU'RE GOING TO NEED MORE THAN BAD WEATHER...
WHUD!
NNF!


NO MATTER HOW GREAT YOUR STRENGTH, IT IS OF NO USE AGAINST THE LIGHTNING'S FURY.
KRAKLL!
WUH... WON'T...
...GIVE UP...
EYAAH!
FORGIVE ME, SISTER.
KRAKLE!
NNNUH!

GREENWICH VILLAGE.
NO FAIR!
ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN! WHERE'D YOU GO?!
ER CITY
:pssst:
SUPERBOY, UP HERE!
SPKT!
YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE NOT EVEN GONNA BE ABLE TO FIND ME...
...WE COULD BE AT THIS ALL DAY!
OH, I'LL FIND YOU, BUG-BOY!
HEY!
HOW'D YOU DO THAT?
KA-SPLOOSH!
TACTILE TELEKINESIS.
COMES IN REAL HANDY.

NEAT TRICK.
SO WHAT'S YOUR STORY, KID?
YOU SUPERMAN'S KID BROTHER? SECOND COUSIN? WHAT?
I'M A CLONE. TRY TO GRASP THE CONCEPT.
A CLONE?!
YEAH, A CLONE.
HOPE YOU DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM GETTING YOUR BUTT KICKED BY ONE.
IF THERE'S ANY KICKING AROUND HERE, JUNIOR...
...IT'S MY FOOT IN YOUR FACE!
I PACK MORE OF A WALLOP THAN YOU EXPECTED, RIGHT? COMPARATIVE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER WILL DO THAT.
UNNF!
WHAKK!

COMPARATIVE AGILITY, TOO.
BUT PROBABLY NOT ENOUGH OF EITHER TO BEAT YOU SLUGGING IT OUT IN CLOSE QUARTERS.
SUPES? KID?
WHERE ARE YOU? THIS SNEAKY STUFF IS SUPPOSED TO BE MY GAG.
uh-oh.
HE'S BELOW--
--MMPH!--

IF I WERE YOU...
...I'D BRACE FOR IMPACT.
"IMPACT?"
DANGER ELECTRICITY
FUNNY YOU SHOULD MENTION THAT. I'VE GOT THIS NEW GIMMICK...
...I'M CALLING IMPACT WEBBING.
SKRAKKLE!
AAARGH!
SORRY, KID.

METROPOLIS.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE DEFEATED AGAIN, METALLO...
...JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER TIME.
KL ANG!
I'M GUESSING YOU'RE THE SUPERMAN THIS METAL GEEK'S BEEN RANTING ABOUT?
I AM.
AND YOU'RE CALLED THE HULK?
ACTUALLY, I PREFER DR. BANNER, OR BRUCE.
I'LL DESTROY BOTH OF YOU! I'LL--
WHOOM
METROPOLIS IS MY CITY, BRUCE, BUT THANKS FOR THE HELP...
...PROTECTING IT?
HERE WE GO AGAIN.

THE GRAND CANYON.
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN "SUMMONED." IT'S SHOWTIME.
WE MUST'VE BEEN SENT HERE SO NO INNOCENTS WOULD BE ENDANGER--
--DHH!-
LET'S JUST GET DOWN TO IT.
KA-TOOM!
WITH A PUNCH LIKE THAT, IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS A DOSE OF HEAT VISION ISN'T GOING TO PROVE FATAL...
AAGH!
...BUT I DOUBT EVEN YOU CAN WITHSTAND IT COMPLETELY.

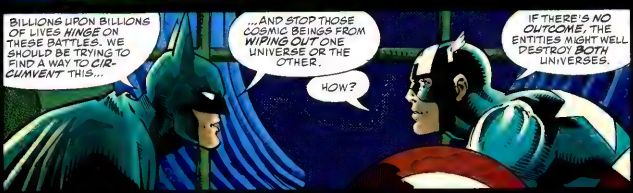
OH, I CAN WITHSTAND A LOT.
THOOM!
YOU'LL NEED TO...
...BECAUSE I'M NOT HOLDING BACK!
THAT SUPPOSED TO WORRY ME?!
HWFF!
NNGH!

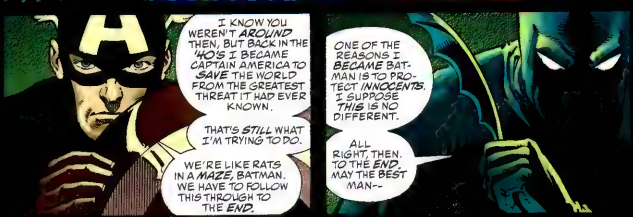
I'D PREFER TO CONSIDER YOU A FRIEND, HULK, BUT WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S AT STAKE, I DON'T THINK I CAN.
FOR ME TO SAVE MY WORLD, MY UNIVERSE, AND MOST OF ALL THE WOMAN I LOVE...
...I HAVE TO PUT YOU DOWN!
POW!
HE TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD, AND ALMOST STOOD UP TO IT.
NOTHING LEFT NOW...
...EXCEPT THE WAITING.

MANHATTAN.
SPLSSH!
BATMAN MELTS INTO THE SHADOWS SO EASILY...
...LIKE HE'S A PART OF THEM. I CAN'T FIGHT WHAT I CAN'T...
...FIND.
HNNF!
CHUDD!

UHN!
CHING!
HYDRA, ZEMO, EVEN THE RED SKULL...
...I'VE NEVER FOUGHT AGAINST SOMEONE WITH WHOM I'M SO EVENLY MATCHED!
AT LEAST WE KNOW WE'VE BEEN ON THE SAME SIDE, CAPTAIN AMERICA...
KRANG!
...UNTIL NOW.
WFF!
WHUP!
WE'RE STILL ON THE SAME SIDE!
ONLY THE CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE PITTED US AGAINST EACH OTHER, ANOTHER TIME...
...I CAN SEE US AS PARTNERS.
THOK!

HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
WE'VE BEEN AT IT FOR HOURS. WE COULD BATTLE FOR DAYS...
...AND NOT HAVE A WINNER UNTIL ONE OF US DROPS FROM EXHAUSTION. WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR SOME OTHER OPTION.
WE WEREN'T GIVEN A CHOICE. WE HAVE TO FIGHT UNTIL SOMEONE GOES DOWN.

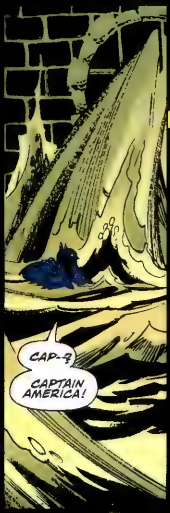

BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF LIVES HINGE ON THESE BATTLES. WE SHOULD BE TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO CIRCUMVENT THIS...
...AND STOP THOSE COSMIC BEINGS FROM WIPING OUT ONE UNIVERSE OR THE OTHER.
HOW?
IF THERE'S NO OUTCOME, THE ENTITIES MIGHT WELL DESTROY BOTH UNIVERSES.


I KNOW YOU WEREN'T AROUND THEN, BUT BACK IN THE '40'S I BECAME CAPTAIN AMERICA TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE GREATEST THREAT IT HAD EVER KNOWN.
THAT'S STILL WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO.
WE'RE LIKE RATS IN A MAZE, BATMAN. WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THIS THROUGH TO THE END.
ONE OF THE REASONS I BECAME BATMAN IS TO PROTECT INNOCENTS. I SUPPOSE THIS IS NO DIFFERENT.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. TO THE END. MAY THE BEST MAN--

THE SYSTEM'S BEING FLUSHED OUT!
SPOOSH!

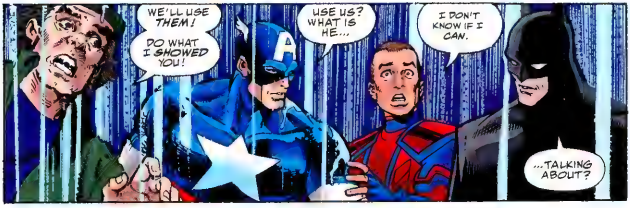
SHIELD MISSED--
--NN!!
TANG!

SPWASH!


CAP--?
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

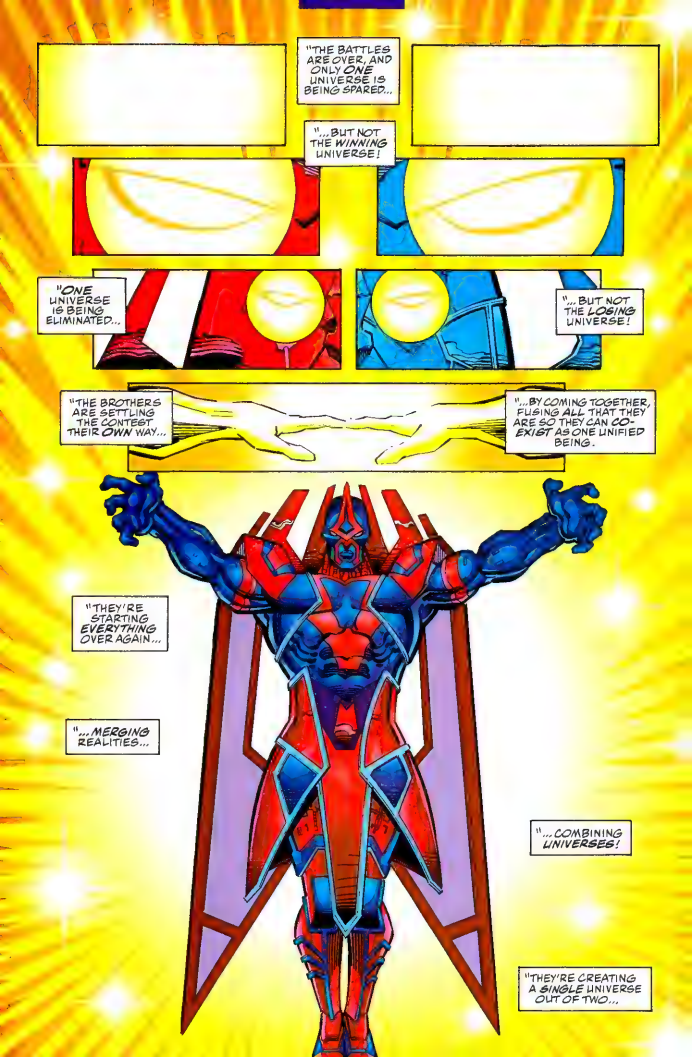
GOT YOU!
HANG ON...
¡glgg¿

...WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN A SECOND.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SWALLOWED SOME WATER AND TOOK A BUMP ON THE HEAD. YOU'RE GOOD WITH THAT... BATARANG, YOU CALLED IT?
BUT I'M FINE... EXCEPT FOR COMING UP SHORT. I LOST, AND MAYBE DOOMED AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE.
WE'RE BOTH STILL HERE, SO THIS ISN'T OVER YET. WHAT NOW?
I'M NOT SURE. I DIDN'T EXPECT--
THAT BOX. DO YOU SEE THAT BOX, IN THE ALLEY? GLOWING?
ONE FROM EACH UNIVERSE!
THEY'RE OUR CHANCE! WE CAN STILL SAVE EVERYTHING!


WE'LL USE THEM!
DO WHAT I SHOWED YOU!
USE US? WHAT IS HE...
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN.
...TALKING ABOUT?

WAIT. I CAN FEEL...
...SOMETHING. I CAN...
IT'S WORKING.
...YES.
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU...
...WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

ACCESS. HURRY!
THERE'S NO TIME LEFT! THE BOX WON'T CONTAIN IT ANYMORE! WE CAN'T KEEP THE BROTHERS FROM--
NO!
IT'S HAPPENING!

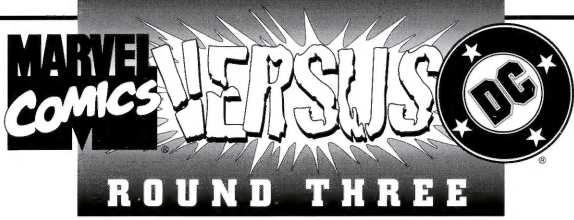

"THE BATTLES ARE OVER, AND ONLY ONE UNIVERSE IS BEING SPARED...
"...BUT NOT THE WINNING UNIVERSE!
"ONE UNIVERSE IS BEING ELIMINATED...
"...BUT NOT THE LOSING UNIVERSE!
"THE BROTHERS ARE SETTLING THE CONTEST THEIR OWN WAY...
"...BY COMING TOGETHER, FUSING ALL THAT THEY ARE SO THEY CAN CO-EXIST AS ONE UNIFIED BEING.
"THEY'RE STARTING EVERYTHING OVER AGAIN...
"...MERGING REALITIES...
"...COMBINING UNIVERSES!
"THEY'RE CREATING A SINGLE UNIVERSE OUT OF TWO...

"...BUT WHAT HAVE THEY CREATED?"
NEXT WEEK : THE COMING OF THE AMALGAM UNIVERSE!

NEXT WEEK:

THE AMALGAM AGE OF COMICS!

AMALGAM COMICS, AMAZON ASSASSINS, BRUCE WAYNE: AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D., BULLETS AND BRACELETS, DOOKUM, STRANGEFACE, LEGENDS OF THE DARK CLAW, MAGNELO AND THE MAGNETIC MEN, SPEED DEMON, SUPER-SOLDIER AND X-PATROL AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS, NAMES, AND ELEMENTS ARE ™ AND © 1996 DC COMICS AND MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



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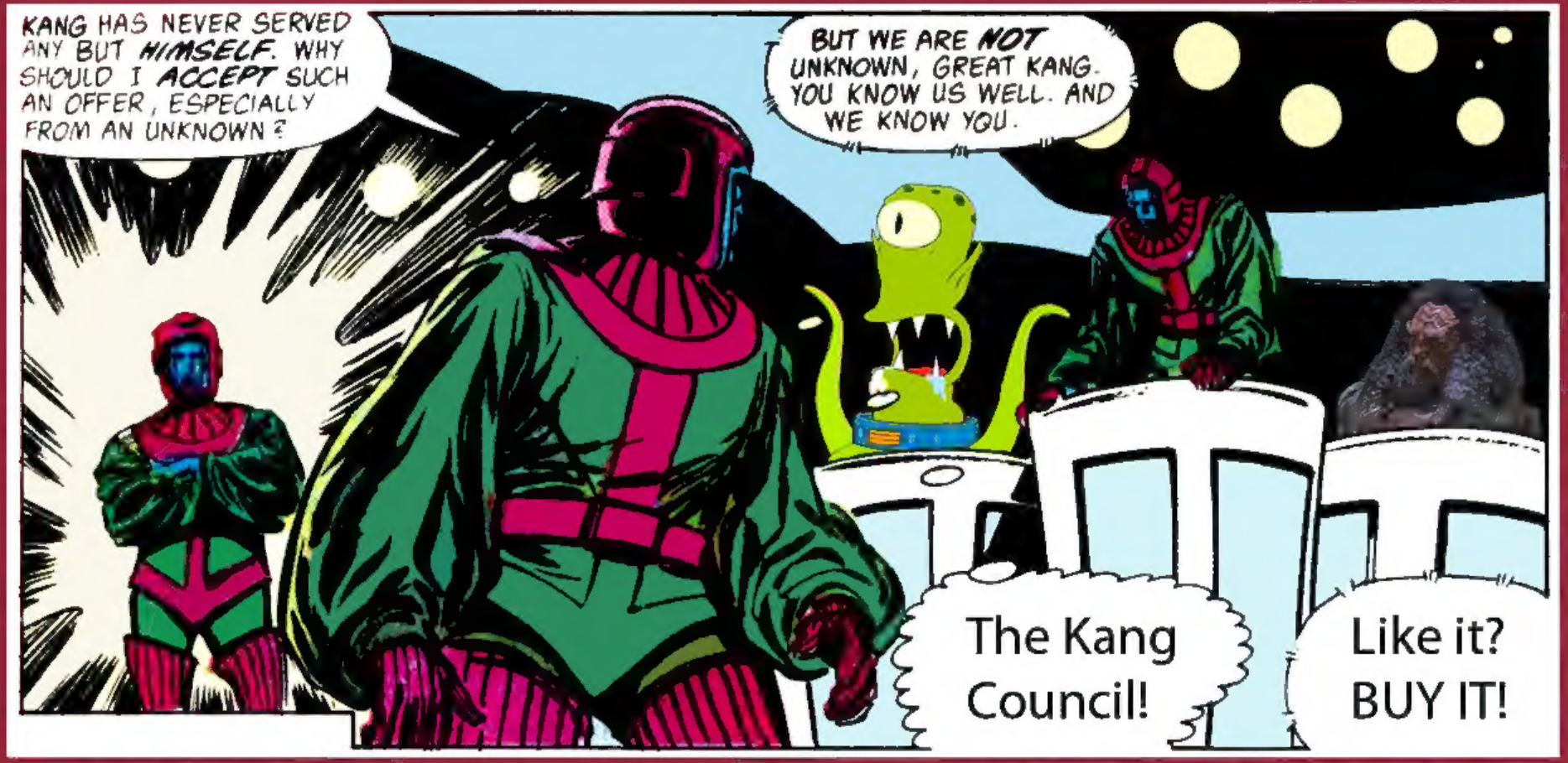
MINUTEMEN


KANG HAS NEVER SERVED ANY BUT HIMSELF. WHY SHOULD I ACCEPT SUCH AN OFFER, ESPECIALLY FROM AN UNKNOWN?
BUT WE ARE NOT UNKNOWN, GREAT KANG. YOU KNOW US WELL. AND WE KNOW YOU.
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